

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, MOPS, PINT, EFIN, CG, AO, BE

SUBJECT: SIMONET'S VISIT TO ANGOLA, SEPTEMBER 6-9
REF: BRUSSELS 16486

1. APPRECIATE FULL ACCOUNT OF DIGGS/CAHEN CONVERSATION,
WHICH HAS SERVED TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON SIMONET'S
TRIP TO ANGOLA SEPTEMBER 6-9 AND HIS VISIT TO U.S. IN
EARLY OCTOBER FOR UNGA.

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2. IN RESPONDING TO SIMONET'S REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION
OR VIEWS WE MIGHT WISH HIM TO HAVE IN CONNECTION WITH
HIS VISIT TO ANGOLA, YOU SHOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING TO
HIM FOR HIS BACKGROUND:

-- AS SECRETARY VANCE HAS SAID PUBLICLY, THE U.S. LOOKS
FORWARD TO CONTINUING ITS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ANGOLAN

GOVERNMENT AND TO DEALING WITH IT IN MORE NORMAL FASHION
ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

-- WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONCRETE PROGRESS WHICH HAS
COME ABOUT SINCE OUR CONSULTATIONS -- I.E., ON NAMIBIA,
AND REAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF U.S. CONCERN OVER THE CUBAN PRE-

SENCE, AS WELL AS OUR DOUBTS ABOUT THE REPRESENTATIVE
NATURE OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE NO PRESENT PLANS
FOR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF LUANDA GOVERNMENT.
NEVERTHELESS WE LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER FRUITFUL
CONSULTATIONS IN THE PRESENT INFORMAL CONTEXT.

-- ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT'S WARMING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.
ARE CLEARLY ONLY ONE FACET OF AN OPENING TO THE WEST
GENERALLY. WE BELIEVE THIS OPENING SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED
WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND WE THEREFORE WELCOME SIMONET
VISIT.

-- RE NETO VISIT TO KINSHASA, BOTH SIDES SEEMED SATISFIED
WITH ATMOSPHERE AND RESULTS OF VISIT. AT THE SAME TIME,
BOTH SIDES APPEARED TO BE MAKING AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN
AN AIR OF REALISM, RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS
TO BE SOLVED AND AVOIDING EUPHORIA. THIS IN ITSELF WE
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CONSIDER AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.

-- ONE RESULT OF NETO VISIT TO KINSHASA IS THAT WORK
APPEARS TO BE GOING FORWARD ON ESTABLISHMENT OF BORDER
VERIFICATION COMMISSION -- E.G., JOINT DEMARCHE TO OAU
MENTIONED IN NETO-MOBUTU COMMUNIQUE. WE HAVE THE
IMPRESSION U.S. MAY BE ASKED FOR LOGISTICAL, COMMUNICATIONS,
OR OTHER SUPPORT FOR COMMISSION, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SO FAR
RECEIVED NO SPECIFIC REQUESTS. WE ARE AT THIS POINT NOT
SOLICITING REQUESTS, BOTH BECAUSE WE DO NOT WISH TO
INSERT OURSELVES PREMATURELY INTO AN AFRICAN SITUATION,
AND BECAUSE OF COMPLICATIONS CONCERNING U.S. AID TO THE
REGION.

-- RE NETO-MOBUTU AGREEMENT TO REOPEN BENGUELA RAILROAD,
OUR IMPRESSION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IS THAT PHYSICAL
DAMAGE TO RAILROAD IS NOT GREAT (PRINCIPAL DAMAGE BEING
TO BRIDGE AT ANGOLA-ZAIRE BORDER) AND CAN BE REPAIRED
IN POSSIBLY 2-3 MONTHS. MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO SUCCESSFUL
FUNCTIONING OF RAIL LINE, HOWEVER, IS UNITA, WHICH, TO
BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, MAINTAINS CAPACITY TO HARASS AND
INTERDICT LINE.

-- RE ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN AGREEMENT FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT MAJORITY OF REFUGEES FROM EITHER SIDE WILL BE RETURNING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN NEAR FUTURE ALTHOUGH SEVERAL THOUSAND ZAIRIAN REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO SHABA. GOA APPEARS TO BE TAKING STEPS TO MOVE AT LEAST SOME ZAIRIAN REFUGEES/ KATANGAN GENDARMES AWAY FROM ZAIRE BORDER.

-- U.S. IS CONSIDERING, WITHIN LIMITS OF CONGRESSIONAL

RESTRICTIONS AGAINST AID TO ANGOLA, WHAT ASSISTANCE WE MIGHT PROVIDE IN VARIOUS PHASES OF RECONCILIATION SCENARIO. U.S. HAS BEEN PROVIDING PL-480 FOOD AID TO CONFIDENTIAL

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UNICEF FOR DISTRIBUTION IN ANGOLA UNDER PLEDGE MADE TO UNHCR IN 1976; ONLY 2000 OF 12,000 TONS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO DATE, DUE TO DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS IN ANGOLA. AID IN OVERCOMING SUCH LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS MIGHT BE ONE WAY IN WHICH THE WEST COULD ASSIST ANGOLA, BUT THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT INCLUDE U.S., SINCE CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS APPEAR TO PRECLUDE U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME POINTS ON WHICH, FOLLOWING SIMONET'S RETURN, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT:

-- WHILE WE ARE ENCOURAGED AND IMPRESSED BY THE PROGRESS TOWARD ANGOLA-ZAIRIAN RECONCILIATION, WE HOPE THAT EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF RECONCILIATION -- VISITS, COMMUNIQUEES, ETC. -- WILL NOT OBSCURE THE FUNDAMENTAL NEED FOR HARD WORK AND PROGRESS ON THE DIFFICULT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THE UNEASINESS WITH WHICH AT LEAST SOME AFRICAN STATES IN THE REGION VIEW THE AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA. RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE REPRESENTS THE SORT OF POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH IF IT PROGRESSES FAR ENOUGH, CAN REPLACE THE MILITARY RESPONSE REPRESENTED BY THE PAN-AFRICAN FORCES.

-- WE WOULD OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN ANY EXPRESSIONS OR COMMENTS NETO MIGHT HAVE ON HIS VISIT TO KINSHASA AND TALKS WITH MOBUTU; HIS VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS ARRIVING AT SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH UNITA; AND WHAT IMPORTANCE LUANDA GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO HAVING ZAMBIA ASSOCIATED IN SOME FASHION FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE BRAZZAVILLE ACCORD. CHRISTOPHER

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